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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

2 NOV 1978

Legislative Counsel

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Honorable Lester L. Wolff, Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter to Admiral Turner of 28 September requesting comments on a transcript of a meeting in Honolulu between Lt. Col. Shinkle, USAF, (Ret.), and the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. In substance, the Agency has no new information or evidence to indicate that any American POWs from the Indochina conflict remain alive. This is consistent with information provided by this Agency to Mr. Edward Palmer, Staff Director, on 11 April 1978.

Lt. Col. Shinkle implied that this Agency had him or his unit removed from Laos. This of course is not correct. This Agency has no authority in this regard. Only his military superior or the Ambassador could do so.

Lt. Col. Shinkle also raised questions about MIA missions being disapproved. In the case of military intelligence operations, if the unit concerned is in strong disagreement with any of the decisions recommended by another Government component, it can appeal through its military channels to the Washington level. If you feel this matter should be pursued further, we would require specific refinements of Lt. Col. Shinkle's charges. That is, we would need to know the precise operations or operational plans which allegedly were rebuffed by the Agency.

I trust these comments will be useful to you in making a final evaluation of Lt. Col. Shinkle's transcript. This Agency has no objection to the publication of the transcript if the names of persons identified as Agency employees or former employees are omitted.

Sincerely,

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Frederick P. Hitz

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